AHCCCS NPI Key Updates
March 2007

- As previously shared, the October Encounter cycle included the addition of an *optional* NPI field and related PMMIS system logic. From this point until submissions on and after the required compliance date of May 23rd, 2007, NPI's can be optionally submitted on encounters. <u>For submissions on or after the compliance date of 5/23/2007 NPI's will be required as applicable</u>.

- As previously discussed, there is a possibility that CMS may elect to extend the dual use period to allow for ongoing testing and implementation of the Dissemination Policy. However, there has still been no formal confirmation received to date from CMS. <u>At this time all health plans/program contractors need to continue to work towards the mandatory compliance date of 5/23/2007 processing date</u>.

- A current listing of Provider Type to NPI requirements was distributed in January and is available on the AHCCCS Website.

- In February we began individual Health Plan/Program Contractor 1-1 meetings with staff to discuss current and proposed outreach efforts, testing with AHCCCS, and challenges and opportunities. We are available to participate in these types of meetings as requested by the Health Plans/Program Contractors, and we will be beginning to plan a second round of these meetings for June and July post implementation.

- As requested in a NPI Consortium meeting last fall, AHCCCS prepared an – AHCCCS NPI Fact Sheet. This document was distributed in the January Consortium meeting in its final form. This document is also posted to the AHCCCS website and may be used in whole or part by any Health Plan or Program Contractor. Please let us know if you have any questions, comments, suggestions, etc for future updates.

- Reminder - Current policy for acceptance of NPI information requires that the information be submitted by the AHCCCS authorized signer or that AHCCCS receive a copy of the notification statement received by the provider from the Enumerator.

- Beginning March 1st, AHCCCS requires that all new registrations of "covered" providers include the provider's assigned NPI, prior to completion of the registration process.

- Just a reminder, it is important that providers get their NPI numbers submitted for capture in the AHCCCS PMMIS system as soon as possible to ensure that your encounters submitted on or after the mandatory compliance date are not pended

awaiting this information. AHCCCS Provider Registration estimates that it could take between 30-60 days to complete updates as this deadline approaches.

- Beginning February 1st, 2007, AHCCCS began the production of the FTP provider file on a weekly basis. This is intended to provide Health Plans and Program Contractors with the most current NPI information on file for all AHCCCS providers.

- NPI Milestone Tracking reports need to be submitted timely upon request. Reminder - We also need to know if the key contact person or persons within your organizations change, so that we ensure that we are communicating to the appropriate parties.

- NPI Health Plan Testing reminders have been distributed in the last four NPI Consortium meetings. We will be working with each health plan individually and will make a limited set of control group scenarios available for inclusion in your testing with AHCCCS if desired.